29th November 1928]

Appointment of a committee to enquire into the forest grievances of ryots.

*863-A Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have arrived at any, and, if so, what decision on the resolution passed in this Council on 6th September 1928 regarding the appointment of a committee to enquire into the forest grievances of ryots and the policy of Government; and

(b) if not, why not?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the answer to question No. 726 asked by Mr. A. B. Shetty.

Mr. K. R. KARANT:—"May I know when the Government hope to come to a decision, Sir."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I cannot say, Sir."

Appointment of a committee to enquire into the forest grievances of the ryots.

*863-B Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the question of appointing a committee of the members of this Council to enquire into the grievances and hardships of the ryots in the forest areas of the province in accordance with the resolution passed in this Council on 6th September 1928 and to what conclusions the Government have come; and

(b) if a committee has been appointed, who are the members of the committee?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to question No. 726 asked by Mr. A. B. Shetty.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Are the Government going to appoint a committee or not?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"That is the point which is under the consideration of the Government."

Alleged closing of a path in Odugathur Reserve Forest, North Arcot district.

*864 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that an admitted right of way that was long in use in Odugathur Reserve Forest (North Arcot district) for cattle and men was suddenly closed in March last and whether even "permitted" cattle were thus not able to enter the forest;

(b) whether it is a fact that permission to take manure leaves is not given in this reserve, even under the usual conditions;

(c) whether it is a fact that in forests under panchayat management in the same district removal of manure leaves is permitted;

(d) whether the affected ryots belonging to several villages appealed to the Conservator of Forests for justice and whether they even telegraphed for immediate redress of grievances; and

(e) what action has been taken by the Conservator in this matter?

[29th November 1928

A.—(*a*) *to* (*e*) The Government have no information but have called for it.

Hydro-Electric Schemes

Investigation of the Papanasam Reservoir scheme.

*865 *Q.*—The ZAMINDAR OF SINGAMPATTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) at what stage the investigation of the Papanasam Reservoir scheme in the Tinnevelly district stands at present;

(*b*) whether the Government propose to make it serviceable as an irrigation project also; and if not, why not;

(*c*) whether the Government will consider the advisability of making the project suitable for supplementing ordinary irrigation on the Tambraparni River; and

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to place all the material papers connected with the subject on the table of the House?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member presumably refers to the Papanasam Hydro-electric scheme. If so, his attention is invited to the answers to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) of question No. 664.

(*c*) This can be considered only after it is definitely decided to proceed with the scheme to develop electric power.

(*d*) The scheme is still under consideration and the papers cannot be placed on the Council table at this stage.

Mr. DANIEL THOMAS:—"May I know, Sir, whether in view of the frequent failures of crops in the Tinnevelly district the Government do not consider the scheme as one of urgent necessity?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"My hon. Friend presumably is referring to the question of irrigation. Hydro-electricity has nothing to do with the failure of crops."

Jails

Water-supply in jails.

*866 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether complaints have been made to Government that the wells in all the jails except Rajahmundry contain only polluted water; and

(*b*) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the quality of water-supply in these jails?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member is apparently referring to paragraph 3 of Part II (*d*) of the report of the King Institute, Guindy, for 1927-28 and paragraph 9 of G.O. No. 1916, P.H., dated 18th September 1928. A report has been called for.